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INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

COUNTRY Hungary

DATE DISTR. 7 November 1952

SUBJECT Military Developments in the
Zalaegerszeg Area

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. A Soviet railway command post has existed at the Zalaegerszeg railway station since 1 January 1952. Since that time affairs have become more active. Soviet material transport came in railway trains of 25 to 30 loaded cars, under guard. The contents, probably ammunition, are packed in cases. The trains reach Zalaegerszeg either from Tapolca or from Szombathely by way of Körmend, Zalaölő, etc. Some of the trains went on as far as Lenti and Rédics. The railway line is watched by Soviet guards and patrols. There is a Soviet ammunition depot east of the Zalaegerszeg station, between the station and the market place. There are six barracks there, 60 x 15 meters. A continuing movement of munitions in and out is observed.
2. Hungarian troops have built a road barrier east of Lenti, by the bridge over the Kerka. Concrete defense works have been constructed at this place, on the border of the village and by the vicarage.
3. Air defense shelters were set up in Zalaegerszeg by the end of January 1952. The sirens were also placed in position and tried out. The Soviet commander has issued air defense regulations for the railway station.
4. The Lisszeszentadornán oilfield is protected by Hungarian antiaircraft artillery. The following positions have been observed: at Tornyiszentmiklós, a battery of four guns; at Csórnyeföld, a battery; at Szécsisziget, a built-up battery position with small barracks and an observation tower. The barracks are occupied, so there presumably is a battery there. There is also a battery position in the forest near Lovászi, but the number of guns could not be determined. A new barrack has been built west of Lovászi, on the mountain side, probably for antiaircraft artillery. In Lovászi itself, three three-story buildings have been erected immediately adjoining an AVH barracks.

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5. Work was begun in the fall of 1951 on an airfield immediately east of Zalaegerszeg, about 500 meters beyond the last houses of the town. At the time of observation, about 1,000 men were employed. They were engaged in grading work and in the construction of two hangars each 80 meters wide. It was said that there are to be three hangars. In front of the two hangars under construction, there will be a concrete apron.

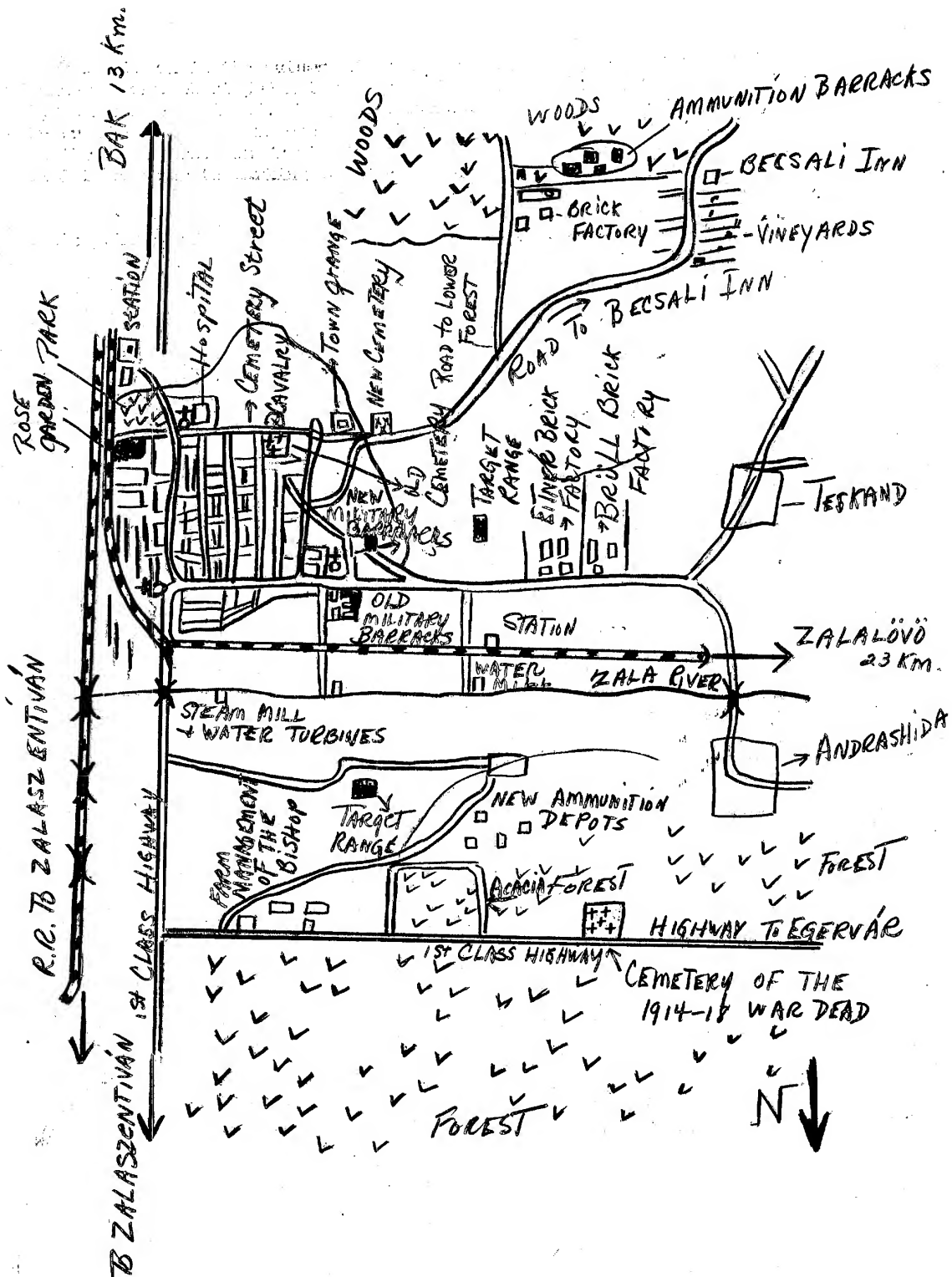
Enclosure: Sketch of Zalaegerszeg and surrounding area.

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